

THE
Christian History;

Containing Accounts of the Propagation and Revival
of Religion in *England Scotland and America.*

To be publish'd *Weekly.*

Saturday JULY 23. 1743. §-N^o. 21.

*The Testimony and Advice of the late venerable Assembly
of Ministers continued.*

‘ **W**ITH Respect to Numbers of those who have been
‘ under the Impressions of the present Day, we
‘ must declare there is good Ground to conclude
‘ they are become *real Christians*; the Account they give of
‘ their Conviction and Consolation agreeing with the Standard
‘ of the holy Scriptures, corresponding with the Experiences
‘ of the Saints, and evidenc’d by the external Fruits of
‘ Holiness in their Lives: so that they appear to those who
‘ have the nearest Access to them, as so many *Epistles of*
‘ *Christ*, written, not with Ink, but by the Spirit of the
‘ living God, attesting to the *Genuineness* of the present Ope-
‘ ration, and representing the *Excellency* of it.
‘ Indeed many who appear’d to be under Convictions,
‘ and were much alter’d in their external Behaviour, when this
‘ Work began, & while it was most flourishing, have lost their
‘ Impressions, and are relaps’d into their former Manner
‘ of Life: Yet of those who were judg’d hopefully con-
‘ verted, and made a publick Profession of Religion, there
‘ have been *fewer Instances of Scandal and Apostasy* than
‘ might be expected.-- So that, as far as we are able to
‘ form a Judgment, the Face of Religion is lately chang’d
‘ much for the better in many of our Towns and Congre-
‘ gations; and together with a *Reformation* observable in
‘ divers Instances, there appears to be more *experimental*

‘ *Godliness, and lively Christianity*, than the most of us can remember we have ever seen before.----

‘ Thus we have freely declar’d our Tho’ts as to the Work of GOD so remarkably reviv’d in many Parts of this Land. ---- And now, We desire to *bow the Knee in Thanksgiving to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ*, that our *Eyes have seen*, and our *Ears heard* such Things.--- And while these are our Sentiments, we must necessarily be grieved at any Accounts sent abroad, representing this Work as all *Enthusiasm, Delusion and Disorder*.-----

‘ Indeed it is not to be denied that in *some Places* many Irregularities and Extravagancies have been permitted to accompany it, which we would deeply lament and bewail before GOD, and look upon our selves oblig’d, for the Honour of the HOLY SPIRIT, and of his blessed Operations on the Souls of Men, to bear a publick and faithful Testimony against ; tho’ at the same Time it is to be acknowledged with much Thankfulness, that in *other Places*, where the Work has greatly flourish’d, there have been few if any of these Disorders and Excesses. --- But who can wonder, if at such a Time as this Satan should intermingle himself, to hinder and blemish a Work so directly contrary to the Interests of his own Kingdom?--- Or, if while so much good Seed is sowing, *the Enemy should be busy to sow Tares* ? ---- We would therefore, in the *Bowels of Jesus*, beseech such as have been Partakers of this Work, or are zealous to promote it, that they *be not ignorant of Satan’s Devices* ; that they *watch and pray* against Errors and Misconduct of every Kind, lest they blemish and hinder that which they desire to honour and advance.---- Particularly,

‘ That they do not make *secret Impulses* on their Minds, without a due Regard to the *written Word*, the Rule of their Duty : A very dangerous Mistake which we apprehend some in these Times have gone into--- That to avoid *Arminianism* they do not verge to the opposite Side of *Antinomianism* ; while we would have others take good Heed to themselves, lest they be by some led into, or fix’d in, *Arminian Tenets*, under the Pretence of opposing *Antinomian Errors*.---- That *Laymen* do not invade the Ministerial Office, and under a Pretence of *Exhorting* set up
Preaching

‘ *Preaching* ; which is very contrary to Gospel Order,
 ‘ and tends to introduce Errors and Confusion into the
 ‘ Church.----- That *Ministers* do not invade the Province
 ‘ of others, and in *ordinary Cases* preach in another’s Pa-
 ‘ rish without his Knowledge, and against his Consent :
 ‘ Nor encourage *raw* and *indiscreet* young *Candidates*, in
 ‘ rushing into particular Places, and preaching publicly
 ‘ or privately, as some have done to the no small Disrepute
 ‘ and Damage of the Work in Places where it once pro-
 ‘ mis’d to flourish. Tho’ at the same Time we would
 ‘ have Ministers shew their Regard to the spiritual Wel-
 ‘ fare of their People, by suffering them to partake of
 ‘ the Gifts and Graces of *able, sound and zealous Preachers*
 ‘ of the Word, as GOD in his Providence may give Op-
 ‘ portunity therefor : Being perswaded GOD has in this
 ‘ Day remarkably bless’d the Labours of *some* of his Ser-
 ‘ vants who have travelled in preaching the Gospel of
 ‘ CHRIST.---- That People beware of entertaining Pre-
 ‘ judices against their *own Pastors*, and don’t run into
 ‘ *unscriptural* Separations. ---- That they don’t indulge a
 ‘ *disputatious Spirit*, which has been attended with mis-
 ‘ chievous Effects ; nor discover a Spirit of *Censiousness*,
 ‘ *Uncharitableness*, and rash *judging* the State of others :
 ‘ than which scarce any Thing has more blemish’d the
 ‘ Work of GOD amongst us. ---- And while we would
 ‘ meekly *exhort* both Ministers and Christians, so far as is
 ‘ consistent with *Truth* and *Holiness*, to *follow the Things*
 ‘ *that make for Peace* ; we would most earnestly *warn* all
 ‘ Sorts of Persons not to *despise* these Out-pourings of the
 ‘ Spirit, lest a holy GOD be provoked to with-hold them,
 ‘ and instead thereof to pour out upon this People the Vials
 ‘ of his Wrath, in temporal Judgments and spiritual
 ‘ Plagues ; and would *call* upon every one to improve
 ‘ this remarkable Season of Grace, and put in for a Share
 ‘ of the heavenly Blessings so liberally dispensed.-----

‘ Finally,

‘ We exhort the Children of GOD to *continue instant*
 ‘ in *Prayer*, that He, with whom is the *Residue of the*
 ‘ *Spirit*, would grant us fresh, more plentiful and exten-
 ‘ sive Effusions, that so this Wilderness, in all the Parts of
 ‘ it, may become a fruitful Field : ----- That the present
 ‘ Appearances may be an *Earnest* of the glorious Things

- * promis'd to the Church in the latter Days; when she
- * shall *shine with the Glory of the LORD arisen upon her*, so
- * as to dazzle the Eyes of Beholders, confound and put to
- * Shame all her Enemies, rejoyce the Hearts of her solici-
- * tous and now sadned Friends, and have a strong Influ-
- * ence and Resplendency throughout the Earth.---AMEN!
- * *Even so come LORD JESUS; Come quickly!*
- * After solemn repeated Prayer, free Inquiry and Debate,
- * and serious Deliberation, the above Testimony and Advice
- * is signed by

[the following Pastors of Churches,]

I. In the Province of the MASSACHUSETTS-BAY.

County of SUFFOLK.

Pastors of *Congregational Churches in Boston.*

- || Benjamin Colman D. D.
- Joseph Sewall D. D. *To the Substance, Scope and End.*
- Thomas Prince A. M. *To the Substance.*
- John Webb A. M.
- William Cooper A. M.
- Thomas Foxcroft A. M.
- || Samuel Checkley A. M.
- Joshua Gee A. M.
- || Andrew Eliot A. M.

Pastor of a *Presbyterian Congregation in Boston.*

John Moorhead.

- James Bayley A. M. of the 2d Church in *Weymouth.*
- || John Fowle A. M. the 2d Church in *Hingham.*
- Thomas Balch A. M. a Church in *Dedham.*
- Henry Messinger A. M. the 1st Church in *Wrentham.*
- Elias Haven A. M. the 2d Church in *Wrentham.*
- James Allin A. M. the Church in *Brookline.*
- || Joseph Baxter A. M. the Church in *Medfield.*
- || Ezra Carpenter A. M. the Church in *Hull.*

County of ESSEX.

- James Diman A. M. a Church in *Salem,*
- To the Substance Scope and End.
- Samuel Wigglesworth A. M. a Church in *Spfwich.*
- Nathanael Rogers A. M. the 1st Church in *Spfwich.*
- || Simon Bradstreet A. M. the 2d Church in *Marblehead.*

John

John Chipman A. M. a Church in *Beverly*,
 To the Substance Scope and End.
 Jedidiah Jewet A. M. the 1st Church in *Rowley*.
 James Chandler A. M. the 2d Church in *Rowley*.
 Samuel Bacheller A. M. the 3d Church in *Haverhill*.
 John White A. M. the 1st Church in *Glocester*.
 John Emerson A. M. the Church in *Topsfield*,
 To the Scope and Substance.
 John Warren A. M. the Church in *Wenham*.
 Ames Cheever A. M. the Church in *Manchester*.

County of MIDDLESEX.

Hull Abbot A. M. the Church in *Charlestown*.
 Thomas Prentice A. M. the Church in *Charlestown*.
 Daniel Blifs A. M. the Church in *Concord*.
 William Hobby A. M. the 1st Church in *Reading*.
 John Cotton A. M. the Church in *Newton*.
 Joseph Emerson A. M. the 1st Church in *Malden*,
 To the Scope and Substance.
 Ebenezer Turell A. M. the Church in *Medford*.
 Daniel Emerson A. M. the 2d Church in *Dunstable*.
 Phineas Hemmingway A. M. the Church in *Townshend*.

County of WORCESTER.

Joseph Dorr A. M. the 1st Church in *Mendon*.
 Ebenezer Parkman A. M. the Church in *Westborough*.
 David Goddard A. M. the Church in *Liecester*,
 To the Substance.
 Solomon Prentice A. M. the Church in *Grafton*.
 John Seccomb A. M. the Church in *Harvard*.
 Nathan Webb A. M. the Church in *Uxbridge*.

County of PLYMOUTH.

Nathanael Leonard A. M. the 1st Church in *Plymouth*.
 Jonathan Ellis A. B. the 2d Church in *Plymouth*.
 Nathanael Eells A. M. the 2d Church in *Scituate*.
 Samuel Veazie A. M. the Church in *Duxborough*.
 Samuel Hill A. M. the 1st Church in *Marshfield*.
 John Porter A. M. the 4th Church in *Bridgewater*.
 Othniel Campbell A. M. the 2d Church in *Plympton*.
 Benjamin Bais A. M. the Church in *Hanover*.
 Thaddeus Maccarty A. M. the Church in *Kingston*.
 John Cotton A. M. the Church in *Hallifax*.

County

County of BARNSTABLE.

Francis Worster, the 2d Church in *Sandwich*.

County of BRISTOL.

Josiah Crocker A. M. the Church in *Taunton*.Habijah Weld A. M. the Church in *Attleborough*,
To the Substance Scope and End.Samuel Tobey A. M. the Church in *Berkley*.

County of YORK.

Samuel Moody A. M. the 1st Church in *York*.Samuel Chandler A. M. the 2d Church in *York*.Thomas Smith A. M. the 1st Church in *Falmouth*.

II. In the Province of NEW-HAMPSHIRE.

Ward Cotton A. M. the 1st Church in *Hampton*.Joseph Adams A. M. the Church in *Newington*.James Pike A. M. the Church in *Summerworth*.Amos Main A. M. the Church in *Rochester*.Joshua Tufts A. M. the Church in *Litchfield*.

III. In the Colony of RHODE-ISLAND.

Josiah Cotton A. M. a Church in *Providence*,
To the general Scope and Tendency.

N. B. The Reverend Gentlemen, to whose Names ||'s are
affixed, signed the Testimony & Advice with an Exception
in the following Terms. ' We concur with the Testi-
' mony for the Substance of it, excepting that Arti-
' cle of Itinerancy, or Ministers and others, intruding
' into other Ministers Parishes without their Consent,
' which great Disorder we apprehend not sufficiently
' testified against, therein.

N. B. By Reason of *Distance*, the Ministers of CON-
NECTICUTT-COLONY, and of the County of *Hamp-*
shire in the MASSACHUSETTS-PROVINCE could not
conveniently attend the *Interview*.



ATTESTA-

ATTESTATIONS contain'd in *Letters* from a Number of *Pastors absent*, and communicated to the *Assembly*.

No. I. From the Rev. Mr. ROGERS, senior Pastor of the first Church in *Ipswich*, in the County of *Essex*.

‘ **W** Hereas it has been advertis'd in a late *Gazette*, or
 ‘ *Weekly Journal*, that some Rev. *Ministers* in *Boston*,
 ‘ and *Places adjacent*, designing to meet together on the
 ‘ *Day after Commencement*, do desire, that as many *others*
 ‘ from the *Country*, as can conveniently, wou'd come
 ‘ down and give in their **TESTIMONY** for **GOD**, and the
 ‘ late *glorious & remarkable Work of his Grace* (marvellously
 ‘ begun and carrying on among us) and that such as cannot
 ‘ personally appear would send their **ATTESTATIONS** in
 ‘ Writing to that *Assembly* ;

‘ I being one of this latter Sort, who thro' Age and
 ‘ Weakness of Body, am unable to travel so far -- must
 ‘ take this Way to signify my hearty *Approbation* of such
 ‘ a Design, and also my Readiness with Heart and Hand to
 ‘ subscribe to the *most ample Testimony* that may be drawn
 ‘ by a better Pen, for the Purpose above-mentioned ; well
 ‘ knowing there can never be too much or enough spoken
 ‘ or written by Man to magnify the Mercy of **GOD** in thus
 ‘ visiting his People, as of late he hath remarkably been
 ‘ pleased to do, or enough said or done to shew forth the Praise
 ‘ of divine Power, and sovereign free Grace, so wonderfully
 ‘ displayed in innumerable Instances and Effects thereof.

‘ I have for some Time apprehended it to be the righteous
 ‘ Expectation of our glorious **LORD**, that all his *Ministers*
 ‘ in these Churches, especially such as may have observed
 ‘ with Admiration (and other proper Affections) the *great*
 ‘ *Revival of the Power of Godliness*, and more general Reformation
 ‘ of Manners (in many Places) as a Fruit of his
 ‘ more plentiful *Effusion* of his most **HOLY** and **BLESSED**
 ‘ **SPIRIT** on the Minds and Hearts of the People, and (as
 ‘ we trust) in Answer to the constant fervent Prayers of the
 ‘ Faithful, both in the present and preceeding Generations
 ‘ --- should in the most publick Manner testify their most
 ‘ grateful Sense of this his unmerited Favour and Loving-
 ‘ kindness to this People and their Posterity.

' I should have rejoiced to have seen something of this
 ' Nature to have gone before the Testimony of another Sort,
 ' (against some real or supposed Errors and Disorders) put
 ' forth in the Name of the late Convention. For certainly
 ' our LORD CHRIST ought (in all Things) to have the Pre-
 ' eminence, and most venerable Mention made of his glori-
 ' ous Work, before any Things, which the grand Adver-
 ' sary of his Kingdom and Church may have done to blemish,
 ' interrupt or hinder the Progress thereof. Nevertheless I
 ' humbly hope and believe it may yet be accepted of GOD,
 ' and likewise be of great Service to his dear People, if a
 ' full and positive Declaration were drawn and subscribed
 ' by a Number of *Witnesses* for CHRIST; asserting a *most*
 ' *powerful and clear Work of Grace* (according to our Appre-
 ' hension) wrought in the Hearts of *Multitudes*, from one
 ' End of the Land to the other. All such as *believe* it with
 ' their *Heart*, will readily *confess* it with their *Mouth*.

Rev. and dear Brethren,

' I shall on the *very Day* of your proposed *Meeting*, viz.
 ' *July 7th* (GOD continuing my Life to that Day)
 ' enter on the 78th Year of my *Age*, and in the 54th of
 ' my *Ministry*. And now desire, as I have utmost Reason,
 ' to bless GOD who has given me to see a Day of such
 ' marvellous Power and Grace, particularly in this Place,
 ' and since the Rev. Mr. *Whitefield* and *Tennent* came among
 ' us; wherein *great Numbers* of our *young People*, and
 ' *others of more advanced Age* give *clear Evidence* of a *sav-*
 ' *ing Change* wrought in them, and by the *Fruits of the*
 ' *SPRIT* shew that they are *born of the SPRIT*: And many
 ' Persons of *Christian Experiences before*, have been *greatly re-*
 ' *ceived*, enriched with Grace, established and comforted by a
 ' new Influence, in and through the Word read & preached;
 ' This I have found by my best Observation in general, and
 ' more intimate Conversation with many of those *Scores*, yea
 ' I think I may say, *Hundreds* living here & in the Neighbour-
 ' hood, and with several from distant Places, who uni-
 ' versally speak the same Language, all giving Testimony
 ' by their Experience to the *Truth of Gospel Doctrines of*
 ' *Grace*.

(To be continued.)

